Dear Howard, 5/20/77

This has been one of those days when I could not, thanks to Jon Ameche and his invention of the phone, get the relieve the bladder pressures for hours.

In the mail there was your memo on the CE 1348 bit and what relates. My letter to Mrs Whitten is enclosed. And no, the Archoves has not yet sent me those records. I am sure I requested them before you did because I was the beneficiary of a leak. To the best of my knowledge they have made no disclosure of this newest release. I did order it long agos even theough I'd not heard from them.

There has been a despicable, nazi-like abuse of my good friend Art Kevin, a Los Angeles reporter, over Loran Hall, who trusted Art and appeared despite the odds against him on Art's word that he had the committee's word. The deal, in essence, was that the committee staff would talk to Hall informally and not lean on him and that Art would be present for all of it. When they began by trying to throw Art out his manly back firmed and in the end he threw them out. But despite their promises these Nazis had a subpoena dated six days earlier for Hall. The net result is that instead of being a cooperative witness he'll exercise his constitutional rights. On 6/7.

Art is a fine human being. He told me how sorry he was not to have heeded me and not to trust any of these people under any circumstances. Hall is, as you know, a pathological liar. But Art apologized to him, telling him that I had warned him against trusting them. Hall's reply was that he could stand on his head for 100 plus some days, the life the committeesstill has, as he saw it.

I do not know what the effect, if any, will be. But I did encourage Art to make a reportorial issue of this. His ultra-conservative management seems to be solidly behind him. I have done what I can to get this sordid story out. Lardner had done a story. It if is not killed by his desk I'll send it to you. In George's checking he had learned that Lewis has decamped and that Richardson Preyer's AA is the acting general counsel. Those committee whores Kenneth Klein, who called himself assistant general counsel, and the black chief investigator on JFK, Cliff Fenton, Jr., once Art threw them out, gave Washington an account George called "thin."

Art does not work for the Daily Worker. His owner is the ultra Gene Autry. That ownership, to my knowledge, has been as solid in support of traditional american press principles as anyone could be.

Meanwhile those animated stupidities told Art, in trying to throw him out of his own offices, that they believed and had been told that Hall offed JFK. This gets past any immunity grant, I think.

I do not believe these harcuts are sophisticated enough to have contrived a situation in which an immunity grant would have no meaning.

But I think they have done this, if not intending it.

Is crazy the right word?

Best,